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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants	: Kazumasa AYUKAWA et al.	Group Art Unit : 3656
Appl. No.	: 09/961,365	Examiner : M. Charles
Filed	: September 25, 2001	Confirmation No. : 5941
For	: THIN AUTOTENSIONER	

RESPONSE TO OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir :

In response to the outstanding Official Action of December 23, 2008, in which a one-month shortened statutory period for response was set to expire on January 23, 2009, Applicants respectfully request passage of the present application to allowance in view of the herein contained amendments.

Claim Amendments begin on page 2 of this paper.
Remarks begin on page 4 of this paper.